

	MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM	ISSUED	REVISED	CHAPTER	SECTION
	Sponsoring Organizations of Homes POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL	12/90	6/15	9	9.4
CHAPTER Chapter 9. Tiering/Eligibility Guidance		SUBJECT Use of Census Data/Documentation Requirements			

Beginning in 2005, the Census Bureau began to estimate household income annually using the American Community Survey (ACS). This is a change to the previous release of census data every ten years. The Food and Nutrition Service will release the new estimates yearly, and MDHSS-CFNA will send the information to the Sponsoring Organization yearly.

Census data may be used and certain circumstances merit the use of census data over school data to verify tier I eligibility, including the following:

- 1) When the family child care home is located in a rural area where large elementary school attendance obscures localized pockets of poverty.
- 2) When the school data indicates a free and reduced enrollment percentage between 40% and 49.9%.
- 3) When the local elementary school data does not accurately reflect the surrounding area's socioeconomic condition, due to busing or magnet or charter schools.

In order to reduce the burden and maintain consistency in determination timelines, the SO's determination that a family child care home is eligible to receive tier I reimbursement rates based on census data will be effective for five years. The SO, MDHSS-CFNA, or Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) may change the tier I determination if information becomes available that the provider is no longer in a qualified area.

Sponsors must annually inform tier II day care home providers that the provider may ask for a reclassification to be considered when new census data become available each year and that reclassification may be made at any time for tier II homes.

Documentation Requirements for Use of Census Data for Tier I eligibility:

The SO must maintain census block boundary maps with the provider's specific address and associated poverty percentage to document their eligibility to receive tier I reimbursement. In order for a CACFP day care home to be eligible, 50 percent or more of the children in a Census Block Group or Census Tract must be eligible for free or reduced price school meals. The SO must sign and date the verification documentation.

Occasionally, a potential CACFP day care home is determined not to be area eligible, but is located immediately adjacent to an eligible area. This proximity suggests that the children residing in the area from which the home or site would most likely draw participants would have a likelihood of similar census demographics. Therefore, based on analysis of the proposed location up to three adjacent CBGs may be averaged, using a weighted average, to determine eligibility. In such a case, CACFP day care homes and SFSP and SSO sites are considered area eligible if the percentage of children eligible for free or reduced-price meals in up to three adjacent CBGs when averaged is 50 percent or more, provided that at least 40

percent of children in each of the individual CBGs are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Census Tracts may not be combined.

The use of averaged CBGs must be approved by the State agency and the Regional Office prior to SO approval.

Computer software is available online through the USDA Eligibility Mapper and the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) to match a list of street addresses to eligible Census Block Groups and Census Tracts. .

NOTE: When a provider is determined to be Tier I eligible by census, in order to be able to claim her/his own child(ren), the provider must complete an Income Eligibility Form and qualify accordingly.